

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 307935
ORIGIN CPR-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ONY-00 /014 R

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APPROVED BY S/CPR:ESDOBELLE
EUR/EE:GBOUTIN
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
S/CPR, EUR ONLY

-----018858 272310Z /72

O 272248Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 307935

E.O. 11652: /A

TAGS: OVIP(CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: DONATION OF SCULPTURE OF CYBIS OWL TO THE WARSAW
ROYALPALACE
FOR AMBASSADOR DAVIES FROM AMBASSADOR DOBELLE

1. ONE OF THE FIRST GREAT SPONSORS OF THE MANUFACTURE OF
PORCELAIN IN EUROPE WAS KING AUGUSTUS OF SAXONY. DURING
THE 1730'S HE HAD A MAGNIFICENT PALACE, CALLED THE
"JAPANESE PALACE", BUILT IN DRESDEN IN WHICH MEISSEN
WHITE PORCELAIN SCULPTURES OF ANIMALS, AS NEAR TO LIFE
SIZE AS POSSIBLE, WERE USED AS IMPORTANT ARCHITECTURAL
FEATURES. PORCELAIN GROUPS OF HUMAN FIGURES WITH BIRDS,
LARGE SCULPTURED BIRDS, AND DINNER SERVICES PAINTED
WITH BIRDS HAVE BEEN POPULAR EVER SINCE IN EUROPE AND
HAVE LONG BEEN HIGHLY APPRECIATED AND VALUED.

2. THIS OWL--AN AMERICAN GREAT HORNED OWL--WAS THE FIRST
OF A LIMITED EDITION OF FIFTY AND WAS DONATED FOR
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PRESIDENTIAL USE. IT IS WHITE, UNGLAZED BISQUIT
PORCELAIN AND STANDS 19" HIGH AND 14" WIDE. IT RESTS
UPON A ONE INCH THICK WALNUT BASE BEARING AN ENAMELED
PRESIDENTIAL SEAL.

3. SCULPTURES, DRAWINGS, ETC. OF RARE AND UNUSUAL
SPECIES OF ANIMALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WERE NOT ONLY

MUCH STUDIED BUT ALSO MUCH THE FASHION IN DECORATION
THROUGHOUT ALL OF EUROPE IN THE 18TH CENTURY.
JEFFERSON, A GREAT FAVORITE OF THE POLES, WAS AVIDLY
INTERESTED IN ANIMALS.

4. THE CYBIS PORCELAIN COMPANY, TRENTON, NEW JERSEY,
WAS BEGUN IN 1940 BY THE LATE POLISH-AMERICAN
BOLESŁAW CYBIS WHO EMIGRATED FROM POLAND TO THE UNITED
STATES BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

5. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS SUPERB ACHIEVEMENT IN
PORCELAIN BY AMERICAN ARTISTS AND ARTISANS WILL BE BOTH
A SUITABLE AND WELCOME ADDITION TO THE ROYAL PALACE AS
A GIFT TO THE PEOPLE OF POLAND FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE
UNITED STATES.

6. THIS GIFT CAN EITHER BE PRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR
DAVIES OR BY THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL OR POSSIBLY BY BOTH.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE307935
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PJDALY:MLCOOK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770482-0629
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771215/aaaaalwu.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 6e560efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN CPR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 125851
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DONATION OF SCULPTURE OF CYBIS OWL TO THE WARSAW ROYALPALACE FOR AMBASSADOR DAVIES FROM AMBASSADOR DOBELLE
TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: WARSAW
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e560efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009